

Trial Court Expense Reductions

Expense Reduction Actions Taken to Date by the Trial Court:

- Unable to fund FY09 negotiated increases for OPEIU Local 6 Employees
- No new contract signed with NAGE
- Implemented absolute hiring freeze in October 2008; restricted hiring since 7/1/07
- Canceled contracts for most Alternate Dispute Resolution providers; permanency mediation programs continue to operate
- Limited assignments of Guardians ad Litem
- Installed digital recording technology in Superior Court civil sessions to eliminate use of per diem court reporters
- Lowered the mileage reimbursement rate from \$.45 to .30 per mile; restricted in-state travel and prohibited out-of-state travel
- Reduced travel reimbursement for contracted court interpreters and improved coordination of scheduling to reduce use of contractors; increased use of interpretation via telephone and bundling of cases needing interpretation
- Cut subscription to Lawyers Weekly via conversion to electronic access
- Law libraries cut reference materials and subscriptions
- Canceled departmental conferences and restructured training to eliminate external expenses
- Reduced expenses for utilities and repairs
- Canceled plans to replace 2,000 old computers with new leased computers
- Eliminated any equipment replacement, unless emergency
- Canceled student intern and co-op program
- Canceled hiring of new law clerks
- Eliminated bottled water contracts

Ongoing Expense Reduction Efforts:

- AOTC is reviewing all private leases for courts and administrative offices; verified with state that no alternative space available for any courts
- Arranging personnel transferability through temporary reassignments on voluntary basis, as understaffing continues to accelerate, due to hiring freeze
- Working with recently formed court committee on videoconferencing to identify opportunities to expand use of videoconferencing to limit prisoner travel and food expenses
- Court departments are assessing and reducing legal materials
- Centralized ordering of supplies; RFP to be issued and implemented by 7/1/09
- Evaluating ways to reduce number and expense of mailings to prospective jurors
- Identifying additional revenue sources to maximize retained revenue accounts in FY10
- Identifying ways that technology can facilitate further efficiencies
- Identifying additional reductions through input from employees across all courts

3/31/09